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Urban District of Heckmondwike.

Medical Officer's
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1920,

HECKMONDWIKE :
ILLINGWORTH BROS., PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE.



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Urban District of Heckmondwike.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1920,

BY

GEORGE HARPER PEARCE, M.D. (Durh.), D.P.H. (Camb.),

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*Fellow (Past President Yorkshire Branch) of
the Society of Medical Officers of Health,
Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Etc.*

HECKMONDWIKE :
ILLINGWORTH BROS., PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE.



Summary of Statistics for 1920.

Area of Urban District (in acres)	696
Population at Census of 1911	9017
Registrar General's estimate of Civil Population for 1920	9191
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census of 1911	2270
Tenements with more than two occupants per room, Census, 1911	214
Population of same	1436
Proportion per cent. to population in private families ...	16.1
Average number of persons per house. Figures not reliable.	
Density of population per acre. ditto.	
Number of Births (Males 105) (Females 98)	203
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	22.0
Number of Illegitimate Births (Males 3) (Females 9)	12
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000	59.1
Number of Deaths including residents who died out- side Heckmondwike (Males 73) (Females 74)	147
Nett Death Rate per 1,000 living	15.9
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births registered	108.3
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all forms) per 1,000 of popula- tion	1.3
Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 of population	1.1
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000 of population	0.1
Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 of population (excluding Phthisis)	2.7
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 of population	1.6
Number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified under Infectious Disease Notification Act and M. of H. Orders	63
Number of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified ...	9
Number of Cases of other forms of Tuberculosis notified ...	Nil.
Rateable Value of District (Poor Rate) £45,749 15 0	
(District Rate) £43,678 8 9	
	<hr/>
	£89,428 3 9

Rate of 1d. in £ produces £372 approx.

Rates for 1920 total, 14s. in £.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT. POPULATION.

	Census, 1911.		Year 1920.
Whole District.	Pop. per. sq. mile.	Density per acre.	Registrar General's estimate
9017	8291	12.9	9191.
Area in acres			
696.			

Mortality in any district is always adversely affected when there are more than 400 persons per square mile.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.—Heckmondwike is a Market Town and Parish, and has a Railway Station on the Bradford and Cleckheaton Branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and another on the London and North-Western Railway. The town is nine miles south-west of Leeds, nine east from Halifax, seven north-east from Huddersfield, and seven south-east from Bradford. It is in the Spenn Valley Parliamentary Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Heckmondwike is governed by an Urban District Council consisting of twelve members, and is supplied with water from works at Dunford Bridge, is lighted with gas from works belonging to the Heckmondwike and Liversedge Gas Company, and with electric light from a station in Bath Road belonging to the Urban District Council. Electric trams run through the town and connect it with Batley, Dewsbury, Cleckheaton, Hightown and Birkenshaw. From the last-named access is gained by tram to Bradford. The town possesses Public Baths, a Fire Station, Public Library, etc. The chief manufactures are carpets and rugs; there are also chemical works, a brewery, machine works and coal mines. Wool sorting is also practised. Two cattle fairs are held, one in May and one in November. There is a very good market held weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The soil is principally clay over sandstone, the coal measures underlying. There appears to be no particular occupation exercising an exceptionally adverse influence on the public health apart from dusty occupations and the danger of anthrax to workers amongst wool.

Parliamentary Voters.—The Assistant Overseer (Mr. Atkin) informs me in response to an enquiry that the total number of voters on the lists is 4,946, but he states he cannot say how many are Parliamentary and how many Local Government Voters.

Rateable Value for Poor Rate £45,749 15s.; for District Rate £43,678 8s. 9d.; Total £89,428 3s. 9d. 1d. in £ produces approximately £372.

Marriages.—The Superintendent Registrar reports this information is unobtainable.

Poor Law Relief expended in Heckmondwike since 1911:—

1911	£284	14	0	1914	£446	0	9	1917	£364	7	10
1912	£305	8	0	1915	£421	15	11	1918	£474	3	0
1913	£370	6	6	1916	£427	5	3	1919	£569	5	0
								1920	£682	7	0

Meteorology.—The prevailing wind is westerly.

Year.	Wet Days.	Rainfall.	Year.	Wet Days.	Rainfall.
1910	182	30.26ins.	1915	157	31.40ins.
1911	172	23.52ins.	1916	194	30.88ins.
1912	200	37.10ins.	1917	162	21.8 ins.
1913	166	23.98ins.	1918	150	19.8 ins.
1914	179	28.62ins.	1919	157	17.6 ins.
			1920	306	14.96ins.

Hospital and Other Forms of Gratuitous Medical Relief, apart from the Poor Law, are obtained at Batley Hospital, Dewsbury Infirmary, and the Leeds and Bradford Infirmaries.

VITAL STATISTICS.

For comparative purposes Heckmondwike should be taken with the 96 Great Towns, for, although not possessing a population of 50,000 or over, the town—being part of the Heavy Woollen District—is intimately joined up to other towns which make the conditions such as prevail in the 96 Great Towns. During 1919, of the 147 deaths 38 were those of persons who died away from Heckmondwike but had at some time resided there. Many of them died in the Union Infirmary, having been admitted from the Heckmondwike Common Lodging House, and although the town is debited with these deaths they are often those of persons who have only actually lived in Heckmondwike during periods varying from a few days to as many hours. The number of such deaths transferred to Heckmondwike by the Registrar-General since 1911 is 251, or a yearly average of 22.8 which is a considerable factor towards increasing the annual figure for death rate.

The West Riding Lunatic Asylums also contribute to this number it not being uncommon for persons whose deaths are debited to Heckmondwike to have been Asylum inmates for many years.

BIRTH and DEATH RATES SINCE 1910 IN HECKMONDWIKE with comparative figures for the rest of the Country.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS REGISTERED.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate
1910	9,258	145	15·6	9	62	89	9·6
1911	9,017	166	18·4	27	162	148	16·4
1912	9,017	182	20·1	28	153	164	18·1
1913	9,100	218	23·9	27	123	155	17·0
1914	9,150	188	20·5	24	127	162	17·7
1915	8,846	184	20·8	23	125	177	20·1
1916	{ B. Rate, 9,341 D. Rate, 8,585	176	18·8	12	68	107	12·4
1917	{ B. Rate, 9,587 D. Rate, 8,600	133	13·8	18	135	158	18·3
1918	{ B. Rate, 8,884 D. Rate, 7,929	145	16·3	9	62	179	22·5
1919	{ B. Rate, 9,208 D. Rate, 8,839	155	16·8	12	77	146	16·5
1920	9,191	203	22·0	22	108	147	15·9
1920—England and Wales		...	25·4		80		12·4
96 Great Towns including London			26·2		85		12·5
148 Smaller Towns		...	24·9		80		11·3
London		...	26·5		75		12·4

Causes of Death in Heckmondwike during 1920, and a
Comparison with Previous Years since 1910.

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	Total	%
Enteric Fever ..		1	7	2	3	6		9	3	2		31	3.8
Small-pox ...			1		1			1				5	
Measles ...						2		4				11	
Scarlet Fever ...		1	4	4	5	1	1	2	1		3	15	
Whooping Cough ...			1	3		2		2	30	12		56	3.4
Diphtheria ...			1	1								2	0.1
Influenza ...	2												
Erysipelas ...	3	1	7	6	8	11	6	7	7	8	11	84	7.4
Phthisis ...		10	3	1	1	5	1	1	3	2		14	
Tuberculous Meningitis ...		2	3	2	2	2		1	3	2	1	22	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	1	3		12	12	13	13	14	11	15	135	8.3
Cancer ...	6	15	12	12	1			3	2			7	0.4
Rheumatic Fever ...		1		1		1	1	2	1			8	0.4
Meningitis ...			1	1	1			16	21	20	19	187	11.5
Heart Disease ...	18	4	23	13	21	23	13	8	10	14	11	105	
Bronchitis ...	5	14	13	10	5	15	10	19	15	10	13	146	16.8
Pneumonia ...	10	1	13	13	12	17	10	2	1	2	1	21	
Other Respiratory Diseases...	1	1	3	1	2	2	5			1		19	1.1
Diarrhoea, &c., ...	1	7	1	7	2		1			2		5	0.3
Appendicitis ...			1	1	1	1						10	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...			1	4	2		1					1	0.6
Alcoholism ...						1						57	3.5
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	2	3	4	5	7	4	5	9	7	4	7		
Puerperal Fever ...			1			1			2		1	5	
Parturition ...				3	3	2	1	8	2	6	10	73	4.5
Congenital Debility, &c., ...		8	12	11	9	2	3	2	4		4	31	1.9
Violence ...	1	3	5	3	6	3	2	2	2			5	0.3
Suicide ...		74	1	47	2	1	1	49	54	50	49	529	32.7
Other Defined Diseases	35	1	47	5	3	7	36	1				16	0.9
Diseases ill-defined or unknown		1										2	0.1
Anthrax ...													
Totals	89	148	164	155	162	156	110	158	179	146	147	1614	

The General Death Rate for 1920 is 15.9. It is lower, with the exception of 1916, than in any year since 1910. There were no deaths from the ordinary Zymotic diseases which is much in the town's favour, although one appears in the table as due to diarrhoea. This was a young child who was taken away for a holiday into another district, contracted the disease there, and died. The death is included in the Registrar General's returns as a Heckmondwike one, the child being a Heckmondwike resident.

Influenza accounted for three but the disease was not epidemic at any time. Phthisis caused 11 deaths, a larger number than in any year since 1915. Cancer accounted for more than in any year since 1911, but it must be remembered when dealing with this disease it is not certain that comparisons with past decades are correct having regard to better and more exact methods of diagnosis at the present time. The figures for Heart Disease, Bronchitis, and Pneumonia call for no special comment when compared with other years. Congenital Debility and Premature Birth accounted for ten deaths of infants. These conditions are usually caused by factors which detrimentally affect the mother and child before birth occurs, Syphilis being to a large extent the cause though not invariably. One mother died following confinement. Generally speaking there are no disquieting features respecting the net death rate for 1920 although it is somewhat higher than might at first sight be expected, but this is to a great extent accounted for by the deaths of residents of Heckmondwike away from the town as previously explained. The Infantile Death Rate is dealt with separately later on.

The Birth Rate is higher than since 1913 but compares unfavourably with the rest of the country notwithstanding it has risen to 22.0 per 1,000. It is a fact that in textile areas there are low birth rates whilst in colliery districts the opposite is the case. In Heckmondwike, however owing to the occupations of the inhabitants these more or less neutralise each other. The following is the illegitimate birth rate since 1910. The actual number of illegitimate births is higher than usual:

Year.	Illegitimate Births.	Rate per 1,000 births registered.	Year.	Illegitimate Births.	Rate per 1,000 births registered.
1910	5	34.4	1915	8	43.4
1911	8	48.1	1916	7	39.7
1912	8	43.9	1917	9	67.6
1913	8	36.6	1918	10	68.9
1914	11	58.5	1919	7	45.1
			1920	12	59.1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—Heckmondwike is a partner with Dewsbury in the ownership of the water supply, the undertaking being known as the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Waterworks Board. The water is obtained from the gathering ground on the moors situated in the parish of Penistone about 18 miles away and is treated with lime at the reservoirs before distribution. Its quality is excellent and the supply constant. Particulars, including analytical reports, are given on Pages 10 and 11 of my Annual Report for 1919 and may be referred to.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.—The West Riding of Yorkshire Rivers' Board is the responsible authority and exercises control. The Spen Beck is much polluted by dye water, trade effluent, etc.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No alterations or additions were made during the year hence the conditions are as explained in previous annual reports. The death of the Surveyor occurred in July, his successor took up office in October, and the year had expired before matters had again reached a normal basis.

Closet Accommodation.—The following was the position on December 31st, 1920:—

December 31st, 1920.			
No. of Privies with open Middens	23	}	86
No. of Pail or Tub Closets	28		
No. of Privies with covered Middens	35		
No. of Water Closets	1677	}	1801
No. of Waste Water Closets	124		
No. of Privies reconstructed during 1920.			
(a) as W.C.'s	14		
(b) Others	None		
No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1920.			
(a) W.C.'s	7		
(b) Others	None		
No. of Closets constructed in 1920 for New Houses.			
(a) W.C.'s	10		
(b) Others	None		
No. of Water Closets constructed in 1920 for Mills, Institutions, etc.			
	15		

Scavenging.—This is performed as in previous years by the Council's own staff. The Refuse Destructor is of the Horsfall type, back feed, with two cells, and is able to destroy all refuse which is carted to it.

Refuse was disposed of as follows:—Destructor, 3,444 loads; tips, 805 loads; sent to farmers, none. Total annual cost is given as £2,071.

It will be noticed that there is an increase in the number of loads burnt and a decrease in tipping. From a hygienic standpoint this is commendable but considering there is at least 33 per cent. of cinders in household refuse it would not be out of place for the Council to consider several of the various methods of salvage which have been adopted by various local authorities and which are stated to be financially profitable.

The total number of metal bins at December 31st, 1920, was 730, and the fixed brick receptacles numbered 332

Sanitary Inspection of District.—The Inspector, Mr. Saville, died in July, and Mr. A. K. Greenwood was appointed in August as his successor. Of necessity some dislocation of the work took place during Mr. Saville's illness and later, but having regard to these facts, the work has been kept well up to date.

Total No. of Inspections re Nuisances	241
Informal Notices served	53
Informal Notices complied with	48
Statutory Notices served	1
Statutory Notices complied with	1
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1919	5
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1920	8
Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1920	51
Total No. of Nuisances abated during 1920	48
Legal proceedings	None

The following Nuisances were found on inspection during 1920:—

Choked W.C.'s	14
Defective Choked Drains	8
Defective Waste Pipes	1
Defective Privies and Pail Closets	5
Manure Accumulations	14
Defective Spouts	2
Keeping of Animals	2
Want of Metal Bins	3
Lack of Drainage	1
Other	1
	—
	51
	—

VISITS TO PREMISES.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations:—

Bakehouses	57
Cowsheds	35
Offensive Trades	34
Slaughter Houses	57
Common Lodging Houses	13
Visits to Infected Houses	26

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.—There is one in Church Street providing accommodation for 37 males. Twelve rooms are set apart for married couples or females, and four single rooms for either males or females. The general condition is good. A list of lodgers is furnished daily as required by Sec. 83, Public Health Act, 1875.

Offensive Trades.—Fat rendering and Tripe boiling 2, Gut scraping 1, and Fellmonger 1. The bye-laws are observed and the conditions reasonable.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—None in the Urban District.

Underground Sleeping Rooms.—None are known.

Other Sanitary Conditions Requiring Notice.—The principal are regular and frequent inspection of dwelling houses for the purpose of enforcing cleanliness, frequent removal of manure accumulations, and strict supervision over all places where food is prepared.

Schools.—The West Riding County Council is responsible for Medical Inspection of scholars. During 1920 I advised the Heckmondwike Council to call upon the local Education Committee to close all the Infant Departments from December 19th until after the Christmas holidays on account of Measles. These schools were closed with the exception of the Roman Catholic Infant School, whose head mistress declined to act upon the Council's requisition and thereby defeated the object aimed at. The Council took up the matter with the West Riding Education Committee and it is unlikely to recur.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.—A number of milk sellers live outside Heckmondwike but sell milk within the Urban District. The following applies only to Heckmondwike:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920
Cowsheds	6	8	8	9	7
Milch Cows (approx. number)	37	50	50	62	52
Cowkeepers	2	3	3	4	3
Cowkeepers who are also Milk Purveyors	None	2	2	3	2
Milk Purveyors only	16	7	7	7	8
Number of inspections ...	19	35	31	26	35

All are registered. The general condition of the cowsheds is fair but there is need for more cubic space for the cattle and more lighting and ventilation is necessary. Samples of milk for analysis are taken by the County Council. In my opinion it would be an advantage if the local inspector (Mr. Greenwood) took these samples, he being on the spot and knowing local conditions intimately. Most of the milk sold in Heckmondwike is imported by rail.

The following are the reports of the Council's Veterinary Inspector:—

Bankfoot House, Batley, 1920.

Dr. Pearce, M.O. Health,

Urban District Council of Heckmondwike.

Sir,—On my last inspection of milk cows Mr. Parker, The Hollies, had a cow suffering from Tuberculosis, udder free. On my advice the cow was sent to the horse slaughterer. Visiting Hunter's, Stubley Farm, suspected Tubercular left quarter of udder in a blue cow. Ere I could again visit, Hunter had disposed of the cow to the horse slaughterers. Hodgson's cows in better condition than on previous inspection. One cow ill, not Tuberculosis. Heard the animal died. Yours faithfully,

G. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

Bankfoot House, Batley, Jan. 1921.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in again submitting to you the result of my four inspections during the first nine months and latter end of 1920 of the cows kept in the Urban District Area of Heckmondwike. I have visited all cowsheds, inspecting 52 cows. I failed to recognise a Tuberculous udder.

One cow both hind quarters of udder much enlarged, but, in my opinion, not Tubercular. Another cow an enlarged quarter due to blocking of the teat; in this case a teat syphon was necessary to empty the quarter. The cows appear to be well cared for, are generally looking well, and the cows at one farm in much better condition than on my previous inspection. Yours faithfully,

G. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

Dr. Pearce.

Veterinary Surgeon.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.—Duties performed by County Council.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.—This is referred to under Maternity and Child Welfare later.

Meat.—Until June 30th all slaughtering was at the Heckmondwike Co-operative Society's Slaughterhouse. Since that date, after control was removed, animals have been killed in private slaughterhouses in addition. Supervision is, so far as possible, maintained, but as the butchers kill at irregular times it is obviously impossible for carcasses to be inspected as they should be, and were during the time when central slaughtering was done. The diseased meat surrendered amounted to 714 lbs., tuberculosis being the cause, the animals being cows.

The condition in slaughterhouses is fair so far as cleanliness is concerned, but, with the exception of the Co-operative Society's premises, all are structurally unsuitable for their purpose.

Slaughterhouses in use at undermentioned dates:—

	In 1914.	In Jan., 1920.	In Dec., 1920.
Registered	6	5	5
Licensed	2	1	1
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 6

Other Foods.—In addition to unsound meat the following surrenders were made:—40 Rabbits, 42-lbs. Dates, 126-lbs. Strawberries.

Bakehouses.—There are seven of which three are on modern up-to-date lines and well kept.

Ice Cream purveyors are numerous, it mostly being made at home for sale. They are supervised on the special lines of the Heckmondwike Improvement Act, 1905. No complaints have arisen in connection with the sale of Fried Fish and Chips.

During the year premises in Milton Square upon which the Council had made a Closing Order in June 1912 were let by the owner to a tenant for the manufacture of chocolates and sweetmeats. The Council called upon the parties concerned for an explanation of their action with the result that the tenant moved to other and more suitable premises.

Food Poisoning.—No cases were met with, but it must be remembered that, in the absence of compulsory notification they might not be known of unless death resulted.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council. I am of opinion it would be an advantage if the Heckmondwike Council did this work for the reasons previously stated.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified					NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Cases re-moved to Hospital				
					At all Ages.												At Ages—Years.				
					NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.												Total Cases re-moved to Hospital				
1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916				
8	11	124	138		Measles																
1	2	1	1		G. Measles																
					Small-Pox																
					Cholera, (C) Plague (P)																
				11	Pneumonia			1	2	5	2	1									
				2	Malaria					2											
9	6	10	6	12	Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) }			8	2	1	4	2									
5		2	4	7	Erysipelas		2						5	5	6	4	4				
11	4	7	28	12	Scarlet Fever		2	8	1	1			9	28	6	4	9				
3	2			2	Typhus Fever																
					Enteric Fever																
					Relapsing Fever (R)			1		1			1			2	3				
					Continued Fever (C)																
		2		1	Puerperal Fever					1											
					Cerebro-spinal Meningitis																
3	1	2	5	7	Poliomyelitis	7															
12	9	13	9	9	Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	9		1	1	6		1	5	3	7	5	5				
1		6	2		Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...										1						
					Other forms of Tuberculosis																
53	135	167	196	63	Totals	63	4	19	6	17	6	4	20	36	20	15	21				

Zymotic Diseases.—The Zymotic death rate is calculated from the number of deaths from what are known as the seven principal Zymotic diseases, viz., Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, ‘Fever’ (i.e., Typhus, Enteric Fever, and Simple Continued Fever) and Diarrhœa. During 1920 there were no deaths in Heckmondwike from any of these causes. The death from diarrhœa included in the return of deaths as explained previously was of a Heckmondwike child who was taken away for a holiday, contracted the disease whilst away, and died away. It is common to judge the sanitary standard of a district by its death rate from infantile diarrhœa (Zymotic Enteritis). On this basis Heckmondwike is in a particularly good position there having been no death in the town from this disease since 1914 a period of six consecutive years. This state of affairs is undoubtedly largely due to the improvements made by the Council in sanitation generally, the strict control exercised over manure accumulations and nuisances thus destroying fly breeding places, and the excellent work done by the Council’s Health Visitor (Miss Shorter) who, acting under the supervision and control of the Medical Officer, advises the mothers generally on the feeding, clothing, and rearing of their infants.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Year	Heckmond- wike	Great Towns	England & Wales	Year	Heckmond- wike	Great Towns	England & Wales
1900	0.72	—	2.0	1911	0.9	2.2	1.8
1901	1.37	—	2.0	1912	1.4	0.99	0.9
1902	1.37	2.1	1.6	1913	1.4	1.5	1.2
1903	1.16	1.8	1.4	1914	1.2	1.5	1.2
1904	1.79	2.4	1.9	1915	1.0	1.6	1.3
1905	1.00	1.8	1.5	1916	0.1		
1906	1.60	2.2	1.7	1917	1.8		
1907	0.31	1.5	1.2	1918	0.5		
1908	0.74	1.5	1.2	1919	0.3		
1909	0.74	1.4	1.1	1920	0.1		
1910	Nil	1.2	0.9				

Infectious Diseases Generally caused no anxiety during the year. SMALLPOX was several times in areas not far from Heckmondwike but although it was necessary to keep under observation some contacts no case arose. It must not be forgotten that this part of Yorkshire is famous for the number of persons who are opposed to vaccination and hence there is always a large number who are susceptible to the infection and present favourable circumstances for the rapid spread of an epidemic. Mr. T. Sykes, the Vaccination Officer, informs me

that in the Heckmondwike and Liversedge areas of the Union 138 successful primary vaccinations were performed and 273 exemption certificates granted, so that it may be taken that in Heckmondwike during 1920 for every child vaccinated two went unvaccinated. MEASLES was much less in evidence which was to be expected having regard to the fact the disease had been more or less epidemic for the previous three years, an unusual circumstance. DIPHTHERIA was notified twelve times but nearly half the cases were really carriers, not suffering from clinical diphtheria, the diagnosis being made after a bacteriological examination. Four cases were in one house, all mild in type. Five persons were removed to hospital, the remainder being permitted to continue at home under suitable conditions. Strict control is exercised over all school children who are contacts of diphtheria cases, none being allowed to return to school unless two successive negative swabs taken at intervals of not less than one week have been obtained. Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Council to practitioners free of charge on request. Twelve cases of SCARLET FEVER were notified of which nine were removed to hospital. The type of disease was very mild. There were no return cases. Two cases of ENTERIC FEVER were notified. In one the diagnosis was doubtful, but the other was an undoubted case with a history of eating shellfish which was thought to be the cause of infection although I was not able to trace exactly the source of supply. MALARIA was notified twice, the patients being demobilised soldiers who had contracted the disease abroad. INFLUENZA was certified as the cause of three deaths but it is uncertain whether true influenza was the exact disease. It was not epidemic at any time. PNEUMONIA in varying form was notified eleven times. Thirteen deaths were ascribed to the disease. I have several times endeavoured to prevail upon the various doctors to conform to the regulations under which the type of disease notifiable must be either acute primary pneumonia or acute influenzal pneumonia and have sent them printed pamphlets and letters but without success. When notifications are received it is common for a type of pneumonia to be specified which is not notifiable, and rarely is a certificate received which is correct. The doctor's explanation is generally to the effect that he is not aware of the contents of the Regulations. This is not satisfactory, it being his duty to make himself familiar and comply with them, a very simple affair entailing no trouble, for which a fee is paid. The Council possess no facilities for hospital accommodation for Pneumonia owing to the refusal of two requests from the Council by the Hospital Board for the admission of such cases. Seven cases of ERYSIPELAS were notified, but in no instance

was food for sale prepared on the premises, or sold there. A man died in the Dewsbury Union Hospital, the cause being certified as ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. He was a discharged soldier with 100 per cent. pension following an abdominal operation. He was removed to the Poor Law hospital from Heckmondwike on May 19th and died on the 22nd. The case was never notified its occurrence being discovered from the transferable death returns. TUBERCULOSIS. Eleven deaths were ascribed to this disease. Of the nine cases notified three died under one month, one under two months, one under five months, and one under eight months from the date of notification being received—actually two died within two days and one the same day—which is an illustration of the extent to which the requirements as to notification of tuberculosis are observed by medical practitioners. Treatment is in the hands of the West Riding County Council. It must be admitted that the whole problem of tuberculosis is at present a more or less hopeless affair. Prevention is the proper way to overcome the disease. The three main lines of attack are (1) Education of the people in the elementary laws of hygiene, the necessity of fresh air and sunlight; (2) Improved housing conditions; (3) Elimination of tubercular meat and milk from the ordinary food supplies. Some temporary benefit may be obtained by residence in a sanatorium, but the patient in many cases soon loses this on returning to his undesirable home conditions. The usual procedure on the part of the local authority as required by the Regulations is followed in each case notified. Advice is given verbally and by printed pamphlet. Inspection of the patient's dwelling and surroundings is carried out and, where necessary, suitable action taken. VENEREAL DISEASES treatment is in the hands of the County Council. The Heckmondwike Council arranged for some propaganda work to be undertaken and a lecture which was well attended was given to men by Dr. Frew, the County Council's Venereal Diseases officer. I am informed by the secretaries of the undermentioned institutions that the following numbers of Heckmondwike residents suffering from venereal disease received treatment during 1920:—Dewsbury Infirmary, 9 males; Bradford Royal Infirmary, 2 males, 1 female; Leeds General Infirmary, 2 females. NON-NOTIFIABLE infectious diseases are discovered through the agency of the Health Visitor who visits and gives appropriate advice in cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, Mumps, etc.

Arrangements for the CLEANSING and DISINFECTION OF VERMINOUS PERSONS AND THEIR BELONGINGS, if required, can be made with the neighbouring Borough of Batley at their contact and cleansing station, the same person being Medical Officer of Health for both areas.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

1920. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1 to 2 Weeks.	2 to 3 Weeks.	3 to 4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 Weeks & under 3 Months	3 Months & under 6 Months	6 Months & under 9 Months	9 Months & under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES.	{ Certified Uncertified	10	2		1	13	4	1	2	2	22
{ Small Pox	...										
{ Chicken Pox	...										
{ Measles	...										
{ Scarlet Fever	...										
{ Whooping Cough	...										
{ Diphtheria and Croup	...										
{ Erysipelas	...										
{ Tuberculous Meningitis	...										
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	...										
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	...										
{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	1				1	1			1	3
{ Convulsions	...										
{ Laryngitis	...				1	1	1				2
{ Bronchitis	...							1	1	1	3
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	...								1		1
{ Diarrhoea ...	...								1		
{ Enteritis ...	...								1		
{ Gastritis	...										
{ Syphilis ...	...									
{ Rickets ...	...									
{ Suffocation, overlying	...										
{ Injury at Birth ...	...	1				1					1
{ Atelectasis	...										
{ Congenital Malformations	...	1	1			2					2
{ Premature Birth ...	...	5				5	1				6
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	1	1			2	1				3
{ Other Causes	...	1				1					1
TOTAL		10	2		1	13	4	1	2	2	22

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 191.

Nett Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants, 19.

illegitimate, 12.

illegitimate infants, 3.

The infantile death rate for Heckmondwike for 1920 is 108 per 1,000 births registered. This is higher than it has been since 1917 but the figure is one which does not do justice to the town owing to the fact that of the 22 infantile deaths from which it is calculated five of them were Heckmondwike infants who contracted illnesses and died away from Heckmondwike. The consequence is that if these five deaths could be deleted—which is not possible—the rate would be 83.7 which compares favourably with that of the Great Towns (85) and England and Wales 80. An analysis of the 22 deaths shews that fifty per cent. were due to conditions which had arisen before birth and these lives could not have been saved, the causes of death being certified as due to Congenital Malformations, Premature Birth, Debility, and Marasmus conditions which are intimately connected with Syphilis, although such is not the cause in every instance. Five deaths, or nearly 25 per cent., were caused by Bronchitis and Pneumonia most probably the result of undue exposure and chills, an infant being very susceptible to such conditions. Convulsions, probably caused by improper and irregular feeding, killed three infants and one died through injury at birth. The Council possesses a Health Visitor who is entirely responsible to them through the Medical Officer of Health, under whose direction and supervision she performs her duties. A portion of time is devoted to the work of School Nurse, for which the County Council pays a sum yearly to the Heckmondwike Council. The present Health Visitor (Miss Shorter) took up her duties at the beginning of 1920. Her work has been most satisfactorily performed and the results have been good. The Council shewed their appreciation of Miss Shorter's work at the end of twelve months by making a substantial increase in her salary, and I desire to place on record my own approval of her services which have been well and cheerfully carried out, often under trying circumstances.

The Maternity Home is run by a voluntary society, the Heckmondwike Nursing Association, composed of ladies resident in the district. The Council and the Medical Officer of Health, are not officially concerned with the Maternity Home, but are well disposed towards the same, which is doing a good work and managed by an enthusiastic and able voluntary committee.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is open every Wednesday from 2 to 4 at the Maternity Home. This Centre is under the control of the Council through the Medical Officer of Health, a sum of £30 annually being paid to the Nursing Association by the Council for use of rooms for this purpose and for the accommodation of the Health Visitor in the keeping of

the records, etc., during official hours daily. The Medical Officer attends when the Centre is open on Wednesday. The ladies of the Nursing Association assist in running the Centre and are responsible for the sale of dried milk, virol, suitable garments for infants, the provision of teas weekly, and in helping on the work generally. Their services are of value and much appreciated. It should be noted that the Welfare Centre is attended by mothers who live outside Heckmondwike. These are not invited but are not refused. On some occasions Heckmondwike mothers have been crowded out.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STATISTICS FOR 1920.

BIRTHS.

Registered:—

(1) Legitimate 191, (2) Illegitimate 12, (3) Total 203.

Notified within 36 hours of birth:—

(1) Live births 208, (2) Still Births 12, (3) Total 220.

(1) By Midwives 61, (2) By Parents and Doctors 145, Un-notified 2.

INFANT DEATHS.

Number:—

(1) Legitimate 19, (2) Illegitimate 3, (3) Total 22.

Rate per 1,000 births:—

(1) Legitimate 99.4, (2) Illegitimate 250, (3) Total 108.3

HEALTH VISITORS.

Visits paid by Health Visitor during the year:—

To expectant mothers (1) First visits 16, (2) Total visits 24.

To infants under 1 (1) First visits 208, (2) Total visits 2,268.

To children 1-5, Total Visits 863.

MUNICIPAL CENTRES & CLINICS.

Address.	Whether sessions are held weekly, fortnightly, &c.	Day and Time of Meeting.	Average attend per Session.		Present arrangements for medical supervision
			Exp. Mthrs.	Ch'rn.	
Heckmondwike Nurses and Maternity Home, The Hollies, Cemetery Road, Heckmondwike.	Weekly.	Wednesday, 2 to 4 p.m.	Average 12 annually.	41 weekly.	M.O.H. attends weekly at Centre.

TOTAL ATTENDANCES: Expectant Mothers 12, Infants 2,176, of whom 317 resided outside Heckmondwike. Individual Mothers with Infants, 99 on register. Dried milk sold, 4,699 lbs., of which 344 lbs. were to residents outside area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	No. of cases notified	No. of cases visited.	No. of cases nursed	No. of cases removed to hospital
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	7	7	4	Nil.
Puerperal Fever	1	1	Nil	Nil.
Measles and German Measles (children under 5)	Nil	6	Nil	Nil.
Whooping Cough, do. ...	Nil	2	Nil	Nil.
Epidemic Diarrhœa, do. ...	Nil	16	Nil	Nil.
Poliomyelitis do.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.

ACCOMMODATION IN HOMES AND HOSPITALS.

Complicated Maternity Cases.—Hospitals at Batley, Dewsbury, Leeds, Bradford, and Poor Law Hospital.

Ordinary Maternity Cases.—Heckmondwike Maternity Home provided by voluntary agency.

Still Births, twelve in number, were most probably caused by Rickets (contracted pelvis) 2, Syphilis 3, Prolonged and Difficult Instrumental Labour 3, Breech presentation 1, Albumenuria 1, and Unknown 2.

Illegitimate Infants are not dealt with in any special way apart from their being visited oftener and kept under continuous observation.

COMPARISON BETWEEN DEATH RATES OF LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS SINCE 1910.

Year.	Deaths of illegitimate infants	Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 births registered.	Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 births registered.
1910	Nil	Nil	64.2
1911	4	500.0	145.5
1912	2	250.0	149.3
1913	2	250.0	119.0
1914	1	90.9	129.9
1915	4	500.0	107.9
1916	Nil	Nil	71.0
1917	Nil	Nil	145.1
1918	1	100.0	59.7
1919	2	285.7	67.5
1920	3	250	99.4

Midwives are under the control of the County Council. There are two resident at the Maternity Home but others who practice in Heckmondwike live outside the town. During the year it was necessary for the Medical Officer to bring before the Heckmondwike Council two midwives who had failed to notify a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and a birth respectively. Both were warned by the Chairman and expressed regret at their conduct promising to observe the regulations in future.

None of the cases of OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM resulted in permanent injury to sight, all recovered.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.—The amounts of dried milk given under this order were 1920, 162 lbs., 1919, 110 lbs.; 1918, 29 lbs. The basis for relief fixed by the Council was 6s. 6d. per head per family per week after deduction of rent. All families below this amount are eligible in accordance with the terms of the Order.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Inspector of Nuisances is Mr. A. K. Greenwood who is also Markets and Housing Inspector. His work is referred to throughout this report.

Hospital Accommodation for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever is provided at the Dewsbury Joint Isolation Hospital, in which Heckmondwike is a partner. The hospital is situated at Earlsheaton and is under the medical superintendence of a general practitioner, resident in Dewsbury. The Board has twice refused the request of the Heckmondwike Council to admit necessitous cases of Measles and Pneumonia. Patients admitted from Heckmondwike during 1920 were Scarlet Fever 9, Diphtheria 5, and Enteric Fever 1.

Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws.—The following are in force within the Urban District: Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted 1902; Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, adopted 1908; Notification of Births Act, 1907, adopted 1909; Bye-laws respecting New Streets and Buildings, Nuisances, Common Lodging-houses, Offensive Trades, Hackney Carriages, all adopted 1889. Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order were approved by the Local Government Board and adopted by the Council during 1912. The Council possesses additional Sanitary Powers by virtue of portions of the Heckmondwike Improvement Act, 1905.

Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by Dr. Sutherland at the County Hall, Wakefield. Outfits are kept at the Council Offices, Heckmondwike, and delivered to practitioners upon request. The following specimens from Heckmondwike were examined during the year ending 31st December, 1920: Widal 2, Sputa 17, Diphtheria 41, Total 60.

Disinfection of premises was performed on 32 occasions. The Council does not possess a steam disinfecter. Application was made by the Council to the Local Government Board in 1914 to borrow money for the erection of a contact station and the installation of a modern steam disinfecter upon ground at the Council's depot in Beck Lane. Steam would have always been available from the destructor boiler. The enquiry was held on June 18th, 1914. The Council's application was not granted on the ground that the nearest point from a dwelling house would have been 38 feet as against 40 feet, the usual distance. Particulars are given on page 34 of the Medical Officer's Report for 1914.

Smoke Nuisances are prevalent, as in neighbouring manufacturing districts. No legal proceedings were taken, but a warning notice was served in one instance.

Rag Flock Act.—No Report from Inspector.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

1. Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Inspec- tions	No. of Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	15	2	None
Workshops (including Workshops ,,)	63	5	None
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	None	None	None
Totals	<u>78</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>None</u>

Defects Found.—Want of cleanliness 4, Unsuitable sanitary accommodation 1. The former were remedied and the latter was outstanding on December 31st, 1920.

Home Work.—Two lists affecting two boot operatives were received twice yearly.

2. Defects Found

in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Action taken was in respect of defective sanitary accommodation (1) which was remedied.

3. Home Work.

Two lists in respect of two workmen employed as Out-Workers at Boot repairing have been registered twice yearly.

4. Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the Year.

Plasterers, 2, Rag Sorting 24, Boot Repairing 6, Hairdressers 8, Breadmaking 7, Photographers 1; Millinery and Dressmaking 8, Tailoring 5, Waste Sorting 2, Plumbing and Electricians 8, Joiners, Cabinet Makers, Woodcarvers and Upholsterers 6, Tinplate Working 2, Watch Repairing 3, Painters 5, Printers and Bookbinders 1, Rug Making 1, Dyers and Cleaners 1, Saddlery 3, Basket Making 1, Various 13, Total 107.

5. Other Matters.

The only action taken under this heading was in respect of 4 matters notified by H.M. Inspector.

There is no underground bakehouse in Heckmondwike.

HOUSING.

On pages 26 to 29 of my Annual Report for 1919 particulars are given extracted from the Census returns of 1911 and also respecting 2,375 houses in the Urban District with accommodation and rents payable in 1919. Reference may be made to these.

In common with other localities there is a shortage of houses and the original measure taken by the Council to meet this condition was the erection of 100 new houses on sites at Stubble Farm and New North Road. The lay out plan at Stubble Farm, for the erection of 56 houses on an area of five acres, was approved by the Ministry of Health as part of a scheme suggested by the Housing Commissioner to lay out a total of 12 acres on which should be eventually built 140 houses. Ten new houses were built by private enterprise during 1920, the type being modern artisan's dwellings. There is some overcrowding particularly in the older types of cottages, and a recent inspection shewed that 209 of the 2,375 houses were overcrowded on the Registrar-General's standard. The causes are scarcity of houses, large families occasionally, the keeping of lodgers who are sometimes relatives and younger members of the same family with their new wives or husbands. No cases of overcrowding have been met with during the year where it was thought either desirable or possible to take proceedings, but persuasion has been resorted to, the result being practically nil.

The general standard of housing in the district is comparable with other industrial areas in this part of Yorkshire, the dwellings being principally of the working-class type which vary from comparatively new modern cottages to some which are very old. The general character of the defects in unfit houses are dampness and general dilapidations. It cannot fairly be said that lack of proper management and supervision by owners is the cause of dilapidations, but it is quite certain that the rent restrictions and high cost of repairs is assisting largely in the deterioration of property generally.

General action as regards housing defects and unfit houses has been taken under the Public Health Acts during the year it being impracticable to make Closing Orders.

Unhealthy Areas.—The following report with the Council's replies present the case under this heading:—

County Hall, Wakefield, 14th December, 1920.

Heckmondwike Urban District Housing Conditions.

Dear Sir,—The West Riding Public Health and Housing Committee at their meeting yesterday considered a report by

the County Medical Officer as to the housing conditions in the Urban District of Heckmondwike, and I was instructed to forward a copy of the report for the observation of the Urban Council. I shall be glad to have the observations of the Urban Council on the report. Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS A. DARWIN.

The Clerk to the Council.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL.

4.—Heckmondwike Urban District.—At the request of the Regional Housing Commissioner an inspection has been made of the housing needs of this district.

Location.—Heckmondwike is located in the Dewsbury Poor Law Union and occupies the eastern side of the Spen Valley between Spenborough, Batley and Dewsbury.

Census Data.—Area 696 acres; inhabited houses 2,269; population 9,016; overcrowded houses 214.

Industries.—Heavy woollens, engineering, wire drawing, chemical and boot and shoe trades.

Population.—The population reached its maximum (9,709) in 1891, then it declined in 1901 to 9,459, and still further to 9,016 in 1911. The Registrar-General estimates the population to-day at 9,208 for the calculation of the birth rate.

Existing Housing Conditions.—For the purpose of this survey enquiries have been made at 2,185 houses. Most of them are erected of stone. Those in the centre of the town and alongside the main roads are very old and many are of a low standard. About 720 or 32 per cent. are back-to-back, while others are of the "single" type, similar to the back-to-back houses and without through ventilation.

A large number of the dwellings contain only four or less rooms conducing to overcrowding. This shows 75 per cent., which compares unsatisfactorily with the 61 per cent., of the West Riding Urban Districts and 44.4 per cent., for England and Wales at the Census of 1911.

Rentals (those paid before the recent 30 per cent., increases) and Accommodation are exhibited as follows:—

Rooms.	No. of Houses.	Average Weekly Rent.
1	43	1/6 to 2/-
2	631	2/3 to 2/9
3	679	2/9 to 3/6
4	350	3/- to 4/-
5	396	4/- to 6/-
6 or more	86	6/- to 10/-

A large number of houses lack facilities for washing, etc., except in the living rooms which in many cases are also used as sleeping rooms containing "shut-up" beds.

Overcrowding.—209 houses overcrowded on the Registrar General's standard. 326 houses morally overcrowded. 124 houses each occupied by two or more families.

Demand for Houses.—Three persons desirous of getting married made requests for houses and 59 persons expressed a desire for better houses.

Insanitary Houses.—108 occupied houses are classed as "Unfit" and 25 of them may be made fit, but the remainder require reconstruction.

Unhealthy Areas.—Owing to the narrowness, closeness, and bad arrangement—or the bad condition of the streets and houses or groups of houses—want of air, light, ventilation or proper conveniences, the area between Cemetery Road, Back Lane, Hope Street, and High Street, should be considered for representation as an unhealthy area.

Empty Houses.—Only one empty house was observed which was back-to-back and of low standard.

Housing Needs.—The Urban District Council submitted to the Housing Commissioner in December, 1919, an estimate and also a Scheme to meet the requirements of the next three years at 100 houses. The Council have also stated that there are no unhealthy areas or unfit houses, and further that comparatively few houses are seriously defective.

Two sites for housing schemes have been considered, and one site of $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres submitted to the Housing Commissioner, who have suggested its extension to 12 acres. The "lay-out" is in course of preparation.

In my opinion there is a need for 213 houses to meet the housing requirements up to 1922, but it should be observed that this estimate does not take into consideration the conversion of the 720 back-to-back houses or of the other type of "single" houses referred to in the report.

REPORT OF THE HECKMONDWIKE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE REPORT OF THE WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL.

Preliminary figures are from the 1911 Census and may be accepted as accurate.

Back to Back Houses.—Heckmondwike 32 per cent; Batley 35.4 per cent.; Dewsbury 31.6 per cent.; Leeds 69.0 per cent.; Bradford 44.5 per cent.

Facilities for Washing and Shut-Up Beds.—It is not usual for working-class dwellings to contain bathrooms even if comparatively recently constructed. It is a common custom for water to be laid on over the sink and occupants to wash there to save carrying water up to the bedrooms. It is also quite usual for living rooms to contain shut up beds for sleeping purposes. When the bedroom accommodation is sufficient some occupants often prefer to sleep downstairs. These peculiarities are not confined to Heckmondwike but common to the Heavy Woollen District and other parts of England. In the case of domestic washing it is common for the facilities to be inadequate and for clothes to be washed in the living rooms and kitchen, this custom not being peculiar to Heckmondwike.

Overcrowding.—At the 1911 Census the percentage of persons found to be living under conditions of overcrowding was in Heckmondwike and adjoining areas as follows:—

Birstall	23.5	Cleckheaton	19.2
Whitley Upper ...	23.4	Ossett	17.9
Liversedge	23.1	Gomersal	17.6
Drighlington ...	21.4	Morley	17.4
Gildersome	20.1	Birkenshaw	17.2
Batley	19.3	Dewsbury	16.6
Heckmondwike			16.1

The figures for Heckmondwike respecting overcrowding and back to back houses are lower than any of the above mentioned towns and there is no reason to believe that at the present time conditions have altered materially.

Demand for Houses.—It is surprising that only 59 persons expressed a desire for better houses. In most areas it is likely the figure would have been much higher.

Insanitary Houses.—The Urban District Council is well aware of the conditions which exist and is of opinion that a comparison with adjoining areas would be very favourable to

Heckmondwike. During the three years 1911 to 1914 no less than fifty-nine Closing Orders were made by the Council whilst, under pressure from the Council, five other houses were demolished by the owners and two voluntarily closed. Since that date for obvious reasons the making of Closing Orders has not been feasible even were such necessary.

Unhealthy Areas.—The area between Cemetery Road, Back Lane, Hope Street, and High Street, which it is stated should be considered for representation as an unhealthy area is in the centre of the town and is one of the most valuable sites. The site has been casually and unofficially stated to be worth not less than fifty thousands pounds.

Facing the Market Place and forming part of High Street are valuable business premises consisting of a large Bank, drapery establishment, the Woodman Inn, and Red Lion Inn, a restaurant, eight shops connected with houses, and three lock up shops. The businesses are those of florist, furnishing, boots, tailor, pork butcher, plumber, china merchant, milliner, draper and tobacconist.

In Cemetery Road adjoining the yard behind the Bank are two houses connected with shops, a plumber's shop, the Heckmondwike Herald Office where newspapers are published and printing carried out, a boot shop, open yard, store, architect's office, and dental surgery.

In Back Lane are a blacksmith's shop, warehouse, two houses (one with garden) provision warehouse, drapery warehouse with Socialist Rooms over, opposite to which are two houses with open space in front and warehouse behind, and the Working Men's Club a recent erection on modern lines at considerable cost.

In Hope Street are four single houses in good repair and some old unoccupied buildings which have mostly fallen down having years ago been used as a stable and store. The material from these disused structures can easily be carted away.

Between Back Lane and the Cemetery Road boundary are some twenty occupied houses and a warehouse. All are provided with water closet accommodation but some are back to back and others of the single type. Four of the back to back houses would have been represented for closure had other houses been available. The remainder are repairable should such be necessary in any instance.

In Anthony Square there were originally seven houses of the single type. Several years ago two of these were closed voluntarily by the owner on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health. The remaining five can be dealt with under the housing regulations when other houses are available.

Comparison of Vital Statistics between the alleged unhealthy area and the Heckmondwike Urban District as a whole for the last 12 years (1909-1920):—

Back Lane Area.

General Death Rate 15.3 per 1,000.

Infantile Death Rate 131 per 1,000 births registered.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases 7.2 per 1,000.

Whole Urban District.

General Death Rate 15.9 per 1,000.

Infantile Death Rate 110 per 1,000 births registered.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases 8.1 per 1,000.

Of the deaths in the alleged unhealthy area over 27 per cent. were those of persons over 65 years of age.

There were only eight deaths of infants under one year, seventy-five per cent. of which were due to premature birth, congenital malformations, pneumonia, and whooping cough.

The infectious diseases notified were Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Erysipelas, Puerperal Fever, Tuberculosis, Measles of which the percentages were for each disease Tuberculosis, Diphtheria and Puerperal Fever 0.5 per cent., Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas 2.0 per cent., and Measles 3.0 per cent.

The Medical Officer of Health has never felt it incumbent upon him to personally make a representation to the Council that this district is an unhealthy one otherwise such would have been done. He does not feel justified in doing so to-day but is of opinion that what alterations or improvements the Council may decide to undertake (if any) can be carried out by dealing with individual buildings under the powers they already possess.

Signed— G. H. PEARCE, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. K. GREENWOOD,
Housing Inspector and Inspector
of Nuisances.

February 17th, 1921.

LETTER FROM COUNTY COUNCIL, 26th APRIL, 1921.

County Hall, Wakefield, 26th April, 1921.

Dear Sir,—

Heckmondwike Urban District.

Housing.

I beg to advert to your letter of the 9th instant enclosing observations by the Medical Officer of Health and Housing Inspector of the Urban Council on the Report of the County Medical Officer, which was considered by the West Riding

Public Health and Housing Committee at their Meeting on the 18th inst., and I am instructed to ask what steps the Urban Council have taken, or propose to take, to have the 25 insanitary houses referred to in the Report of the County Medical Officer made fit for habitation.

I shall be glad to hear from you on the matter.

Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS A. DARWIN.

A. H. Redfearn, Esq.,

Clerk to the Urban District Council, Heckmondwike.

At the time of the printing of this Annual Report the reply to the above letter had not been drafted.

The above reports and correspondence explain themselves comment being unnecessary. The remarkable proposal that the most important business site in the centre of the town should be demolished created much discussion which is easily understood by persons familiar with local conditions.

CLOSING ORDERS, &c., made under Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Situation	Date of Representation to Sanitary Com. by M.O.H.	Date of Closing Order.	Date of Determining Order	Date of Demolition Order.	Remarks
34, 34A, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, Milton Square	Nov. 27th, 1911	Dec. 7th, 1911	None made	None made	Repaired and used as rag warehouse
1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, Royle Fold	Jan. 22nd, 1912	Feb. 5th, 1912	None made	None made	1, 3, & 5 used as storerooms others standing empty with doors & windows boarded up
4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, Cook Lane	Feb. 19th, 1912	None made	None made	None made	4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 were demolished by owner, remainder repaired and used as joinery works
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Milton Square	March 18th, 1912	June 24th, 1912	For No. 14 July 7th, 1913	None made	14, made fit for habitation, 15, 16, 17, 18, converted into warehouse
11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, Croft Street	March 18th, 1912	June 24th, 1912	11 to 19, April 28th, 1913 23 to 41, July 9th, 1913 21, Oct. 27th, 1913	None made	Rendered fit for habitation
20, Walkley Lane	None made	None made	None made	None made	Closed by owner but relet by him 1916
13, Carr Street	Oct. 28th, 1912	Nov. 11th, 1912	None made	None made	Used as storeroom
29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, Upper George Street	April 21st, 1913	April 28th, 1913	None made	None made	Rendered fit for habitation and tenanted
27 and 29, Albion Street	Dec. 8th, 1913	Dec. 22nd, 1913	None made	None made	Demolished by owner
6 and 8, Walkley Lane	May 25th, 1914	June 8th, 1914	None made	Feb. 15th, 1915	Outstanding Dec 31st, 1919
123, 125, 127, 129, 131, High Street	July 20th, 1914	July 27th, 1914	None made	Feb. 15th, 1915	Demolished by owner
134, Brighton Street	None made	None made	None made	None made	Closed by owner, 1914, but relet by him 1917
6, Anthony Square	June 21st, 1915	July 5th, 1915	None made	None made	Closed by owner

The above was the position on December 31st, 1920.

APPENDICES.

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Memo Int.

Min. of Health.

HOUSING CONDITIONS. STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1. GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	9191
(2) General death-rate	15.9
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	1.3
(4) Infantile mortality	108.3
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	2375
(6) Number of working-class dwelling houses	2000
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	approx. 10

2. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

1. Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	58
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	58
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	39
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	19

II. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	2
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III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	None
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	None
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close,	None

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 19 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | |
| (a) by owners | None |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | None |

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | None |
| (2) Numbers of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | None |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | None |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | None |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | None |

3. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part I, or (b) Part II., of the Act of 1890:—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Name of area | |
| (2) Acreage | |
| (3) Number of working-class houses in area | None |
| (4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced | |
| 4. Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 | None |
| 5. Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly duties of each officer | |

The Housing Inspector is Mr. A. K. Greenwood who is also Inspector of Nuisances and Markets Inspector.

I desire once again to thank the members of the Council and my colleagues, the officers of the Council, for their consideration and courtesy to me during the year.

The Council is always willing and anxious to consider and put into operation any recommendation which is for the improvement of the health of the inhabitants and sanitation generally. It is encouraging to a Medical Officer of Health to work with such a Council and I am pleased to record it.

G. H. PEARCE, M.D., D.P.H.



